**What is the Sun?**

**General Statement**

The Sun is 5 billion years old. It is the only star in our Solar System. The sun seems brighter than other stars because it is closer to Earth than other stars.

**Where is the Sun?**

This gigantic ball of gas is at the centre of our solar system. It is a star in a galaxy known as 'The Milky Way’. Unlike planets, the Sun does not move, however planets and other objects orbit the Sun. Did you know that Earth is nearly 150 million kilometres away from the Sun?

**What does the Sun look like?**

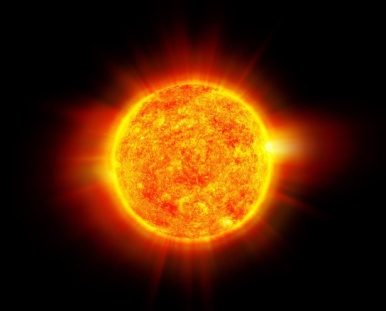
The Sun is the shape of a large sphere. It looks bigger to us compared to other stars because it is closer to our planet. It is over 100 times wider than Earth, and 1 million times bigger than Earth. Burning solar flares that escape from this golden ball can be seen through extremely powerful telescopes.

**What does the Sun do?**

Producing its own light, heat and energy, the sun is necessary for all life to exist on Earth. Without it our planet would be in complete darkness. When countries on Earth are facing away from the sun, it is night time there, but when countries are facing the sun, it is daytime there. By using the sun, man has been able to track time and seasons for thousands of years. In more recent times, we have learned that the sun can be harmful if we stay in it for too long, especially when it is at its strongest in the middle of the day.

**Conclusion**

The Sun is very important because life on Earth would not exist without it. However it can be dangerous and burn us, so we must take precautions such as by wearing sun cream and a sunhat, especially in the summertime. It is good to keep out of the sun in the middle of the day because that is the hottest time of the day.

[](http://www.google.co.nz/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=the+sun&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&docid=AzksPgWPPJQXHM&tbnid=O5aIhzjJjKsGcM:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http://www.afrocyberpunk.com/archives/children-of-the-sun/&ei=_t4iUtHyN42gkgXi04GwCA&bvm=bv.51495398,d.dGI&psig=AFQjCNHoZhAAyf5Z2gxGVjHmKoMmOuFS2Q&ust=1378103415665594)